

HONORING WALLACE BROECKER  
AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S  
LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OB-  
SERVATORY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Wallace Broecker, a geochemist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory for recently being awarded the Crafoord Prize in Geosciences by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Mr. Broecker was honored with this prize for his stellar work in studying the role oceans play in the carbon cycle. As we debate how to control global warming in this Congress, Mr. Broecker's work will better inform us on the best policy approach to this global threat.

Dr. Broecker did his groundbreaking work at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, which resides in my district. This incredible facility is one of the world's leading research centers on how our biosphere operates. More than 300 research scientists at the observatory research every aspect of our planet including volcanoes, earthquakes and global warming.

To get the data necessary for their work, the observatory has led expeditions around the world to collect data. Using their 239-foot research vessel, the *Maurice Ewing*, the observatory has collected samples from the ocean floor, studied seismic activity and collected ocean soil core samples. Through this work the observatory has amassed the world's largest collection of deep-sea and ocean-sediment cores from every sea and ocean on the planet.

The observatory has taken the massive amounts of data they have accumulated and created some of the world's most comprehensive databases of ocean activity critical to the work of marine geoscientists such as Dr. Broecker.

Madam Speaker, my hat is off to Wallace Broecker for earning this fantastic honor. His work and the work of the entire Lamont-Doherty Earth observatory is an invaluable resource for other scientists and for policy-makers as we struggle to balance our economic well being with our requirement to be stewards of the environment.

RECOGNITION OF MERCER AND  
MONROE COUNTIES AS BEST  
COMMUNITIES FOR YOUTH

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two counties in my district, Mercer and Monroe, which have recently received the honor as two of the Nation's "100 Best Communities for Youth for 2007" by the Alliance for Youth. This is the second such award for Mercer County, which was also honored last year.

These counties competed against hundreds of communities in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Is-

lands, who were all vying for the unique distinction.

This award is well-deserved, as these communities have dedicated themselves to fostering a healthy, safe, and caring environment for our young people. I share this vision, and am deeply honored to have the only two localities in West Virginia recognized located in my district.

I pledge to continue my work to make the communities of the Third District a healthy and nurturing environment for our children, by supporting legislation that will keep our children safe. Last year, I supported legislation to better fund our law enforcement. I also supported the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, a bill that will protect children and save countless lives by dramatically improving efforts against sex offenders and violent criminals. In addition, I took action in the House of Representatives to protect West Virginia children from Internet predators, voting in support of the Deleting Online Predators Act and similar legislation.

While these steps are significant, it is by far the end of our work. As the folks of Mercer and Monroe Counties can attest, we must never waver from our commitment to our youth. As much as we accomplish, we must always strive to do better.

West Virginia native and renowned author Pearl S. Buck once said, "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all."

These are words to live by, words that Mercer and Monroe Counties are living by today. I again commend the entire community—the teachers, the civic leaders, the parents and the children as well, who are all so very bright—for the hard work they have done and continue to do.

I encourage other communities in the Third District and across West Virginia and our Nation to follow the fine example set by Mercer and Monroe Counties. As the Alliance for Youth said, "They are shining examples of what it means to keep America's promise to our young people."

IN HONOR OF LOUIS POSEN

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished and accomplished constituent: Louis Posen, who has dedicated the last 6 years of his life to two extremely important causes: achieving mental health parity and reducing the unacceptable rate of suicide that plagues this country.

Each year, more than 30,000 people die from suicide. For our youth, it is the third leading cause of death. And these deaths can be prevented.

Louis's story is remarkable in many ways. In 1993, he started his own record label, and called it Hopeless Records—not for lack of hope, but in honor of one of the first songs he produced.

It is hard to imagine that this successful label began in his living room with only \$1,000 of seed money which was contributed by his helpful brother.

As Hopeless Records grew, Louis started a subsidiary label called Sub City. From this

label grew the Take Action Tour, which uses the proceeds from concerts and record sales to support worthy charities.

Since 2001, the Tour has joined with the National Hopeline Network, 1-800-SUICIDE. So far, Louis and the Tour have raised over \$1 million to help target the Hopeline and other mental health issues.

Louis has also collected over 100,000 signatures in support of mental health parity. He has educated both the public and their elected representatives about this and other important mental health issues.

As recently as 2000, the Federal budget had no funding for suicide prevention. Due in no small part to Louis's tireless work, Congress now provides at least modest support for programs to help prevent suicide.

We are grateful to Louis and the Tour for helping to fund programs such as the National Suicide Hotline and the Youth America Hotline. These are extremely valuable resources for individuals in times of crisis.

It is also a privilege today to recognize Reese Butler, founder of the Kristin Brooks Hope Center and the National Suicide Hotline.

Together, Reese and Louis have created a public/private partnership that has helped tens of thousands of people and is a great example of how such a partnership can work.

I strongly support legislation to provide mental health parity and additional funding for programs that will help reduce the unacceptably high number of suicides in this country. Again, I congratulate the Take Action Tour, Reese Butler and Louis Posen for their work on these critical issues.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED C. YSRAEL  
AS GUAM'S EXECUTIVE OF THE  
YEAR FOR 2006

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that on Saturday, January 13, 2007, Mr. Alfred C. Ysrael of Tamuning, Guam, was recognized as the 2006 Executive of the Year during a ceremony sponsored by Guam Business magazine. Mr. Ysrael is the chairman and president of Tanota Partners, which owns and operates three hotels and several other profitable real estate holdings on Guam. He has spent the last 50 years growing and diversifying his business interests on Guam, creating thousands of local jobs for Guam's workforce and strengthening Guam's economy. The year 2007 marked the occasion of the 24th anniversary of Guam Business magazine presenting the Executive of the Year award.

It is not uncommon for successful businessmen, such as Alfred, to come from humble beginnings. They start out with only a dream, a few dollars in their pockets, and a commitment to excellence. Hard work and an unfaltering belief in what they seek to accomplish are essential to their success. Alfred was born and raised in the Philippines. He graduated from De La Salle University in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in commerce ready and eager to pursue the American dream. Mr. Ysrael now stands as a prominent figure among the pioneers of post-war business and commerce on Guam.